

coxæ anticæ basi contiguous; mesosternum depressum, leviter excavatum; sutura prima abdominis distincta; femora dentata; unguiculi bifidi.

A very distinct genus, well differentiated from all the forms of *Centrinus* by the dilated sides of the prothorax, and bifid claws. The anterior coxæ diverge so as to form a continuation of the pectoral canal.

*Enops interruptus.*

*E. brevisculus*, rufo-brunneus, sat dense griseo-pubescent; antennis concoloribus; funiculo articulis duobus basalibus elongatis; prothorace fere impunctato; elytris interrupte carinatis, interstitiis biseriatis punctatis. Long. 3 lin.

*Hab.* Parana.

Rather short, yellowish brown, thinly covered with a greyish pubescence; rostrum nearly as long as the elytra, moderately curved, the basal half with somewhat indefinite raised lines, the apex dilated; scrobes lateral, beginning rather beyond the middle; funicle elongate, the first two joints as long as the rest together, club oblong ovate; prothorax slightly transverse, the base with a raised line, the dilated part forming a spinous angle anteriorly; scutellum smooth, round; elytra triangular, convex, nearly twice as broad as the prothorax at the base, the shoulders obliquely truncate, each elytron with three interrupted raised lines, the outermost abbreviated, a fourth marking the abruptly vertical side, interspaces with two rows of large punctures; body beneath pitchy, covered with a greyish pubescence; legs somewhat slender; femora subclavate, armed with a small tooth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

*On the Proper Generic Name of the Tunny and Albicore.*

By THEODORE GILL.

In 1817, in the first edition of the 'Règne Animal,' Cuvier proposed two subgenera of *Scomber*, which he employed, however, in a generic sense: one, *Thynnus*, was based upon the common tunny (with which were associated other and smaller species), having moderate pectoral fins; and the other, *Orcynus*, was based upon the *Alalonga* of the Mediterranean and characterized by the long pectoral fins. Subsequently by many ichthyologists these two genera were combined into one under the name of *Thynnus*. In 1861 the

present writer replaced the name *Thynnus* by the term *Orycnus*, which was substituted, inasmuch as *Thynnus* was used for a genus of Hymenopterous insects by Fabricius in 1775. This name *Orycnus* was simply due to a misreading of the name *Orcynus*, and was subsequently replaced by *Orcynus* in its correct form. Nevertheless in 1863 Dr. J. G. Cooper, in the 'Proceedings of the California Academy of Natural Sciences' (vol. iii. p. 77), proposed to revert to the old groups of Cuvier in the following terms, describing a supposed new species related to the Alalonga of the Mediterranean, which he called *Orcynus pacificus*:—

"This species is one of several confounded by sailors under the Spanish names of Albicore and Bonito. The English name Tunny is applied to an allied species on the coast of Europe, the *Thynnus vulgaris*, Cuv., and to its near representative, the *T. secundi-dorsalis*, Storer, of the eastern American coast. These, however, are evidently of a different genus, and, as *Thynnus* is preoccupied in insects, the name *Orycnus*, applied by Gill to the same type, may perhaps be retained, although founded on a mistake."

Without reference to the reality of what was so evident to Dr. Cooper, we need only recall that here the name *Orycnus* was specifically proposed to be retained at the same time that *Orcynus* was used for a related genus.

In 1888 Professor Jordan, in the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia' (reprinted in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for 1888, ii. p. 356), apparently overlooking this specific application of the name *Orycnus* by Cooper, proposed the new name *Albacora* for the same genus, inasmuch as *Orcynus* had been used in 1815 for a genus of Carangids by Rafinesque, while *Thynnus* of Cuvier, as is well known, had been preoccupied for a genus of Hymenopterous insects.

The present author would have been glad if the name *Orycnus* could have fallen into "innocuous desuetude;" but inasmuch as it had been specifically and with *malice prepense* resurrected and proposed for retention by Cooper, it must surely be retained for the genus comprising the Tunny and Albicore. It belongs to a category of which there are many illustrations, being an anagram of another name, and numerous such have been proposed deliberately and generally adopted, such as *Panulirus* and *Linuparus*, anagrams of *Palinurus*, and various others.

If it is represented that the word *Orycnus* is merely due to a slip of the pen or typographical error, and therefore should not be retained, we can, in reply, refer for an analogous retention of an incorrect form to no less an authority than Professor Jordan. In the fifth edition of his excellent work 'A Manual of the Vertebrate Animals of the Northern United States,' published a couple of months ago (1888, p. 92), we find the word *Athlennes*, which was originally proposed in 1886 as a designation for the *Belone hians* of Cuvier and Valenciennes. As we suspected at the time of publication, this name is really derived from an ancient Greek synonym of the common *Belone belone* of Europe, "ἀβλεννης, without mucosity."

Nevertheless in a footnote to the 'Manual' we are informed that "this name was inadvertently printed '*Athlenes*,' and may remain so; '*Ablennes*' was intended." Surely then, in strict analogy with such usage, the name *Orycnus* can be retained as the generic designation of the Tunny.—*Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.* 1888, p. 319.

*On Polyodontes maxillosus.* By M. REMY SAINT-LOUP.

The author remarks that large Annelides are rare in the Gulf of Marseilles, but notices the occurrence of a *Eunice* (*E. Rousseaui*) about 1 metre in length. Recently a gigantic Aphroditacean has been captured, which he identifies with the *Polyodontes maxillosus* of Audouin and M.-Edwards and of Claparède, a species which is probably identical with *Phyllodoce maxillosa*, Ranzani, and with *Eumolpe maxima*, Oken. The specimen measured 2 metres in length, but it was broken during capture, and only the anterior portion, about 0.30 m. long, was preserved. The animal was caught by means of one of the deep-sea lines which the fishermen call *palangrottes*, the hook being baited with the abdomen of a large hermit-crab, which is interesting as indicating the diet and the voracity of the Annelide. It was taken at a depth of 50 metres.

The body near the head is 20 millim. in diameter, slightly thinner further back. The segments are red-brown above, marked off by narrow streaks of bright green. The ventral surface is rosy yellow and the proboscis salmon-coloured. In the region near the cephalic lobe the elytra completely cover the dorsal surface, which is free and naked in the rest of the fragment. The elytra are inserted upon feet which alternate with others having only a dorsal cirrus. In this the author agrees with Claparède, but not with Delle Chiaje's figure. The proboscis, which is not described by Claparède and not very well figured by Delle Chiaje, is extensible to a length of 0.03 m., and then presents a diameter somewhat greater than that of the body. In front it bears four denticulate jaws, each terminated by a larger tooth or claw, 4 millim. in length. When the aperture is enlarged for the purpose of biting the organ presents the aspect of a viper's head; its infero-superior diameter is then about 0.02 m. When closed its greatest diameter is transverse and reaches 15 millim. A small living Dorado presented to the *Polyodontes* was seized by it, held for a few seconds, and then released; but it soon died, and the author could not decide whether this was caused mechanically or by a venomous action of the bite. The cephalic lobe bears the eyes on two peduncles which are united and soldered together; their projection is sufficient to enable the *Polyodontes* to see in front of it even when the proboscis is protruded. The delicate fringes of the extremity of the proboscis bear ultramarine-blue granules, which are phosphorescent at night.—*Comptes Rendus*, September 2, 1889, p. 512.